CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for on-access computer virus scanning of files in an efficient
   manner, comprising the steps of:
   (a) identifying a process for accessing files and selecting virus detection actions
       based at least in part on the identified process if no identifier is assigned
       thereto;
   (b) assigning an identifier to the process if no identifier is assigned thereto;
   (c) selecting virus detection actions based at least in part on the identifier if
       existent; and
   (d) performing the virus detection actions on the files.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the identifier is cleared upon the
   occurrence of a predetermined event.

3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the identifier is reused after being
   cleared.

4. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the event is the termination of an
   application.

5. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the identifier is assigned by the
   application.

6. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the application is adapted for
   executing the process.

1   7.   A computer program product for on-access computer virus scanning of files
2   in an efficient manner, comprising:
3   (a)   computer code for identifying a process for accessing files and selecting virus
4   detection actions based at least in part on the identified process if no
5   identifier is assigned thereto;
6   (b)   computer code for assigning an identifier to the process if no identifier is
7   assigned thereto;
8   (c)   computer code for selecting virus detection actions based at least in part on
9   the identifier if existent; and
10   (d)   computer code for performing the virus detection actions on the files.

1   8.   The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the identifier is
2   cleared upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

1   9.   The computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein the identifier is
2   reused after being cleared.

1   10.   The computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein the event is the
2   termination of an application.

1   11.   The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the identifier
2   is assigned by the application.

1   12.   The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the
2   application is adapted for executing the process.

1   13.   A system for on-access computer virus scanning of files in an efficient
2   manner, comprising:
3   (a)   logic for identifying a process for accessing files and selecting virus detection
4   actions based at least in part on the identified process if no identifier is
5   assigned thereto;

6   (b)   logic for assigning an identifier to the process if no identifier is assigned

7   thereto;

8   (c)   logic for selecting virus detection actions based at least in part on the

9   identifier if existent; and

10   (d)   logic for performing the virus detection actions on the files.

1   14.   The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the identifier is cleared upon the

2   occurrence of a predetermined event.

1   15.   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the identifier is reused after being

2   cleared.

1   16.   The system as recited in claim 14, wherein the event is the termination of an

2   application.

1   17.   The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the identifier is assigned by the

2   application.

1   18.   The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the application is adapted for

2   executing the process.